

City of New Braunfels, Texas

2910 IH35 Frontage Road



Minutes

Thursday, April 17, 2025

4:00 PM

Westside Library Branch

River Advisory Committee

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was called to order at 4:00PM.

2. ROLL CALL

River Advisory Committee Members: David Davenport, Dick Hillyer, Shane Wolf, Mark Conlan, Scott Roots, Justin Loehr

City Staff: River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles; Deputy City Manager, Jordan Matney; River Operations Specialist, Katie Johnson; Watershed Supervisor, Phillip Quast; Operations Captain, Mike Penshorn; Police Lieutenant, James Bell; Police Lieutenant, Joe Robles; Detective Lieutenant, Jace Hobbs; Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, Geronimo Aguirre; Parks and Recreation Director, Chad Donegan; Director of Communications and Community Engagement, Jenna Vinson

A)

Introduction of New River Advisory Committee Members

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman, David Davenport, called for a motion of approval for two sets of minutes from the September 19th and October 8th, 2024 meetings. Committee member Shane Wolf made the first motion to approve, and committee member Scott Roots seconded. Both sets of minutes were approved unanimously.

A)

Approval of Meeting Minutes for October 8, 2024 for the Joint Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and River Advisory Committee meeting.

[Minutes Joint Meeting 10.8.24](#)

B)

Approval of Meeting Minutes for October 8, 2024 for the River Advisory Committee meeting.

[Minutes 10.8.24](#)

4. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATIONS

There was no Citizen's Communication at this time.

This time is for citizens to address the Committee on issues and items of concerns not on this agenda. There will be no Committee action at this time.

5. STAFF REPORT

A)

Last Public Exit Project Update Presentation

River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, gave a presentation on the Last Public Exit Project updating committee members on the status of the construction of the underwater landing. Niles shared photos of what the original stairs looked like at the Last Tuber's Exit, stating that the new underwater landing will improve safety and access. In addition, aging New Braunfels Utilities water lines will be removed and water service at the Last Tuber's Exit will be replaced. Niles discussed key construction dates and timelines, noting that May 22nd is the current substantial completion date after construction delays. Due to construction at the Last Tuber's Exit, city staff created and installed temporary signs instructing river goers to exit at Garden Street. These signs are strategically placed in areas where tubers enter the Comal River. In addition to signage, Niles stated that there are thumbnails on the city website explaining the temporary closure, notices were sent out to all city subscribers, and all river outfitters have been advised to educate their customers on exiting at Garden Street. Niles explained the contingency plan to use the Schlitterbahn walking path in addition to Garden Street when there is an increase in tubers and river activity once summer begins. Deputy City Manager, Jordan Matney, stated that the construction crew is working six days a week, working well, and are expected to remove the cofferdam sooner than expected. When the floor was open to public comment the overall thoughts of residents in attendance said they were concerned about trespassing on their private property. Deputy City Manager, Jordan Matney, stated that the city has offered the Guada-Coma resident signage and staff is waiting to hear back from the residents. Matney also explained that once construction is complete, the banner that instructs tubers to exit will be reinstalled. Chairman, David Davenport, stated that he understands concerns and though the committee does not have the authority to make changes they can make recommendations to city council and staff.

B)

River Paid Parking Presentation

Interstate Parking General Manager, Aubre Gilliard, gave a presentation on the new paid parking system, Park NBTX. He gave an

overview of the new features of the parking system including Resident River Parking Permit upgrades, the introduction of seasonal parking ambassadors, and new branding and signage for the program. Gilliard explained that this new system has the user in mind with easy ways to set up resident accounts or park and pay as a visitor. Committee member, Shane Wolf, asked if the city was writing citations. Gilliard explained that with a new ordinance change, the parking ambassadors will write them stating that it is a friendlier process, and their focus would be on getting compliance. Committee members asked how Park NBTX would be funded and if the profits would still go into the river fund. River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, replied that Park NBTX (Interstate Parking) is a river fund expense, meaning the company would take their fee out of the parking profit. However, Niles stated that this new parking vendor has the ability to get data that would be beneficial in the future, and the addition of Cypress Bend Park paid parking should be able to cover the fee. Police Lieutenant, James Bell, asked if the parking ambassadors would have name tags. Gilliard replied that they will have uniform shirts and vests with the Interstate Parking emblem.

C)

2025 River Season Preparation Presentation

River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, gave a presentation on the upcoming river season preparations. As an overview of the 2024 river season, Niles explained that New Braunfels continued to be impacted by drought conditions, although there were small rain events unlike the last two seasons. There was a noticeable increase in compliance with the Disposable Container Ban, the free lifejacket program continues to be successful, and the Comal River was designated as a National Water Trail. For the 2025 river season, Niles explained that river flows are expected to decrease through the summer with longer float times between 2-4 hours with paddling required. Niles stated that Garden Street will be available to make the float time shorter. It is predicted that there will be less parking space turn-over due to longer float times. Paid parking will begin on May 1st, with this season being the first year there will be paid parking at Cypress Bend Park. Niles shared recent river projects that have been done including improvements to the Last Public Exit, the right-of-way fence at the Faust Street Bridge, the turnstile gate at the Tube Chute Park, new cohesive river signage, additional paved parking spaces at Cypress Bend Park, and Union Street and sidewalk improvements. Committee

member, Scott Roots, asked if there would be any changes in police presence. Niles replied that the new Police Chief has plans to have few officers on site but have these officers be more mobile than in the past to cover all river locations.

6. **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

This regular meeting adjourned at 5:19 P.M.

By: _____
DAVID DAVENPORT, CHAIR